

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-8 (canceled)

9. (currently amended) A method for screening a chemical compound for activity in blocking the chloride channel C1C-7 ~~the treatment, prevention or alleviation of an osteoclast related bone disease in a subject,~~ which method comprises the following steps:

providing a test cell comprising ~~one or more~~ chloride channel[s] C1C-7 of the C1C family;
subjecting the test cell to the action of the ~~channel-chemical~~ compound;
and
measuring the ability of the compound to block ~~the selected chloride channels~~ C1C7 chloride transport.

10. (canceled).

11. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any one of~~ claim[s] 9 ~~or 10~~, wherein the osteoclast related bone disease is osteoporosis, osteolytic cancer invasion, osteopetrosis, or Paget's disease of bone.

12. to 17. (cancelled)

18. (currently amended) A method for screening chemical compounds for potential activity in the treatment, prevention, or alleviation of an osteoclast related bone disease in a subject, which method comprises screening compounds in a test cell so as to select compounds having the ability ~~of the compounds~~ to block ~~one or more channels~~ the chloride channel C1C-7 of the C1C family.

19-20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~[20]~~ 18, comprising screening the compounds so as to select compounds having the ability to block the chloride channel C1C-7 but not having the ability to block a chloride channel selected from the group consisting of chloride channels C1C-1, C1C-2, C1C-4, C1C-5, C1C-Ka and C1C-Kb.

22. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim [20] 18, comprising screening the compounds so as to select compounds having the ability to block specifically the chloride channel C1C-7.

23. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 18, which method comprises the following steps:

providing a test cell comprising one or more chloride channels of the C1C family; subjecting the test cell to the action of the chemical compound; and measuring the ability of the compound to block the one or more chloride channels.

24-26. (canceled).

27. (previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the osteoclast related bone disease is osteoporosis, osteolytic cancer invasion, osteopetrosis, or Paget's disease of bone.